

FCC MAIL SECTION

Federal Communications Commission

DA 00-542

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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Section 73.202(b),)	MM Docket No. 00-40
Table of Allotments,)	RM-9824
FM Broadcast Stations.)	
(Cobleskill and Saint Johnsville, New York))	
)	

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: March 1, 2000

Released: March 10, 2000

Comment Date: May 1, 2000

Reply Comment Date: May 16, 2000

By the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission has before it the petition for rule making filed by Clear Channel Broadcasting Licenses, Inc. ("petitioner"), requesting the reallocation of Channel 278B from Cobleskill, New York to Saint Johnsville, New York, as the community's first local aural service, and the modification of Station WQBJ((FM)'s license to specify Saint Johnsville, as its community of license. Petitioner states that it will apply for the channel, if allotted.

2. Petitioner states that Saint Johnsville, an independent community with a 1990 U.S. Census population of 1,825 people, is located approximately 24 miles northwest of Cobleskill. Saint Johnsville, according to petitioner, has its own police department, school system, library, town clerk, youth center, village justice center, housing authority, ambulance organization, post office and zip code. In addition, petitioner points out that the community has several restaurants and food stores, a bank and other retail establishments. Thus, it concludes the Saint Johnsville is deserving of its own local aural transmission service. If the change of community is granted, petitioner states that Cobleskill will continue to receive local aural service from AM Station WXBH and will retain reception service from Station WQBJ since it does not propose to change its transmitter site.

3. We believe petitioner's proposal warrants consideration since the allotment of Channel 278B to Saint Johnsville could provide the community with its first local aural service without depriving Cobleskill of its sole local aural service. In addition, Station WQBJ, as a Saint Johnsville station, will not provide 70 dBu service to any Urbanized Area. Channel 278B can be allotted to Saint Johnsville in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 15.9 kilometers (9.9 miles) east, to accommodate petitioner's desired transmitter site.¹ As requested, we also propose to modify Station WQBJ's license to specify Saint Johnsville as its community of

¹ The coordinates for Channel 278B at Saint Johnsville are 42-58-21 North Latitude and 74-29-30 West Longitude.

license. In accordance with Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's Rules, we will not accept competing expressions of interest in Channel 278B at Saint Johnsville or require the petitioner to demonstrate the availability of an additional equivalent channel for use by such parties. Saint Johnsville is located within 320 kilometers (200 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border. However, prior approval by the Canadian Government is not required since no change in the station's transmitter site is being proposed.

4. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the community listed below, to read as follows:

<u>City</u>	<u>Channel No.</u>	
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Cobleskill, New York	278B	--
Saint Johnsville, New York	--	278B

5. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

6. Interested parties may file comments on or before May 1, 2000, and reply comments on or before May 16, 2000, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

Marissa G. Repp
F. William LeBeau
Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.
555 13th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
(Counsel to petitioner)

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules. See Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no ex parte presentations are permitted from the time the

Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An ex parte presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off protection. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules).

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposals in this Notice, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs,

or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Information Center, at its headquarters, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.